**The Center for State Child Welfare Data** · CHAPIN HALL

**california child welfare indicators project**

**UNC** · FPG CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

## Northern California Training Academy Fundamentals in Evidence-based Decision-Making

### Session 1:  Making an Observation

June 5, 2018

The Center for State Child Welfare Data
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

UC**DAVIS** EXTENSION
CENTER FOR **HUMAN** SERVICES

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# Case record review

Case record review is method that you can use to answer a question:

- Do reunifying teens have different behavioral issues than reunifying toddlers?

- Does County X provide a wider range of services to bio families than County Y?

- How is casework with children with a reunification goal different from casework with children a different permanency goal?

- What do we observe during parent-child visits that may promote or delay reunification?

Just as in quantitative data analysis: **Know your question. Write it down.**
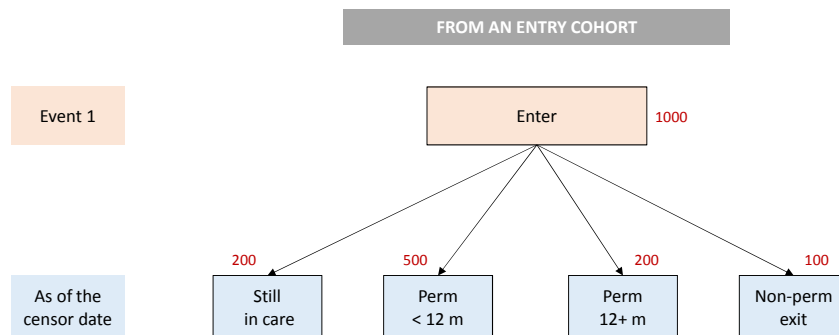
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## Selecting a case record review sample

Which cases should I sample?

- As in quantitative analysis, the population from which you sample has to match your question. Your population is your **sampling frame**.

- The sampling frame must include all those who were "at risk" of achieving the outcome of interest.

  - For example, if you wanted to learn about why teens are slower to reunify and you only look at those who did not reunify within one year, you will only be reviewing the "failures."

  - To learn about what differentiates reunifying teens from those that do not you'll want to sample from all entering teens and then compare those who reunified with those that did not.

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How do I find my sampling frame?



Of all children who entered care for the first time during the year, what percent exited to permanency within 12 moths?

500 / 1000     =     .5     x     100     =     50%

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## Selecting a case record review sample

All Spells: FCDA web tool https://fcda.chapinhall.org

Example: All children who entered foster care for the first time in Sacramento in 2014.

**County**
(multiple selections allowed)
- Orange
- Placer
- Plumas
- Riverside
- Sacramento

**Spell overview**
**Admission type** ❓
- All
- First Admission
- Re-entry

**Sample selection**
**Entry cohort** ❓
(Earliest valid entry cohort year is 2000)
Show child spells that started between:
From: 01-01-2014
To: 12-31-2014

**List records**
Choose columns to return for selected spells.
(multiple selections allowed)
- All
- Child ID
- State
- County
- Level of Urbanicity
- Gender

[ List records ] [ Download Data ]

Download data to a .csv file

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## Selecting a case record review sample

Assign a random variable to each spell using the **RANDBETWEEN** formula.
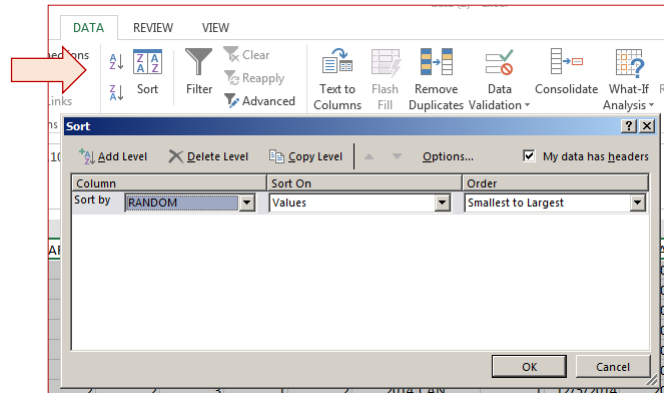(Copy new column and paste values.)

A2 = =RANDBETWEEN(0,100)

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | RANDOM | STATE | CNTYNAME | GENDER | ETHNIC | STARTAGE | SPELL |
| 2 | 5 | CA | Sacramento | M | HI | 1 | |
| 3 | 20 | CA | Sacramento | F | BL | 5 | |
| 4 | 53 | CA | Sacramento | M | HI | 7 | |
| 5 | 97 | CA | Sacramento | M | BL | 3 | |
| 6 | 24 | CA | Sacramento | M | HI | 12 | |
| 7 | 15 | CA | Sacramento | M | WH | 10 | |
| 8 | 74 | CA | Sacramento | F | WH | 2 | |
| 9 | 82 | CA | Sacramento | M | HI | 1 | |
| 10 | 0 | CA | Sacramento | F | BL | 7 | |
| 11 | 69 | CA | Sacramento | M | WH | 17 | |
| 12 | 5 | CA | Sacramento | F | HI | 6 | |
| 13 | 67 | CA | Sacramento | M | BL | 14 | |
| 14 | 13 | CA | Sacramento | F | HI | 16 | |
| 15 | 65 | CA | Sacramento | F | BL | 5 | |

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## Selecting a case record review sample

Sort spells by the random variable.



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## Selecting a case record review sample



Starting from the top, select the first ## cases. Because this is a random sample, it should, by definition, give you a representative sample of trajectories (for example, children who entered care for the first time in 2014).

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If you want to ensure the same number of cases per category – for instance, 10 children who exited to permanency within 12 months and 10 children who did not – sort by the random variable, find the criterion variable of interest, and pick the first 10 NOs followed by the first 10 YESses.

To identify children who do/do not exit to permanency within 12 months, create a new variable and select based on that criterion. (Your Excel formula will make use of EXIT and DURCAT.)

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**Finding cases inside a pivot table…**

*Of all children who entered care for the first time in 2014, what percent exited to permanency within 12 months?*

| countyname | Sacramento | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| spellone | 1 | | |
| jdflag | 0 | | |

| Count of perm in 12 | Column Labels | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Row Labels | 0 | 1 | Grand Total |
| 2012 | 222 | 184 | 406 |
| 2013 | 288 | 217 | 505 |
| 2014 | 286 | 213 | 499 |
| 2015 | 248 | 194 | 442 |
| 2016 | 251 | 178 | 429 |
| 2017 | 208 | 126 | 334 |
| Grand Total | 1503 | 1112 | 2615 |

Of the 499 children who entered care for the first time in 2014, 213 exited to permanency within 12 months (43%).

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*Case review: Who are the 213 children who exited to permanency within 12 months?*

| countyname | Sacramento |
| --- | --- |
| spellone | 1 |
| jdflag | 0 |

| Count of perm in 12 | Column Labels | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Row Labels | 0 | 1 | Grand Total |
| 2012 | 222 | 184 | 406 |
| 2013 | 288 | 217 | 505 |
| 2014 | 286 | 213 | 499 |
| 2015 | 248 | 194 | 442 |
| 2016 | 251 | 178 | 429 |
| 2017 | 208 | 126 | 334 |
| Grand Total | 1503 | 1112 | 2615 |

*Double click...*

| | A | E | F | G | I | K | L | M | N | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CHILDID | GENDER | ETHNIC | SPELLAGE | AGECAT4 | INYEAR | SPELL | SP_START | SP_START_YEAR | SP_ |
| 1000001 | F | HI | 14 | 4 | 2013 | 2 | 2/20/2014 | 2014 | 3/ |
| 1000002 | F | BL | 0 | 1 | 2014 | 1 | 11/20/2014 | 2014 | 12/ |
| 1000003 | M | BL | 0 | 1 | 2014 | 1 | 8/29/2014 | 2014 | 12 |
| 1000004 | F | BL | 0 | 1 | 2014 | 1 | 6/18/2014 | 2014 | 7/3 |
| 1000013 | F | BL | 3 | 2 | 2014 | 1 | 8/29/2014 | 2014 | 12/ |
| 1000014 | F | | | 2 | 2014 | 1 | 29/2014 | 2014 | 1 |

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